

Walter Reed Hospital
Friday
March 20, 1959
5:45 P.M.

MB

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TELEPHONE CALL TO MR HERTER AT CAMP DAVID

The Sec. said he had gotten the impression today that it was going to be rather tough going and that there is basically a total failure to grasp or accept the whole concept of our deterrent strategy. We can't rely on, whenever there is a threat, having to buy our way out by making concessions rather than standing firm and relying on our deterrent power to keep the peace. The Sec. said that was one of the basic troubles. He just wanted to get that thought to Herter.

They discussed the Secretary's condition.

(The Secretary told Mr. Greene after the conversation that Mr. Herter was not very free to talk. Herter said they were working on an answer to the Russians and trying to get that closed out today.)